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Daisy Scott Sharpe Ball

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DAISY SCOTT SHARPE BALL:

Daisy “Birdie” Scott was born on January 1, 1872 in Arkadelphia, Arkansas to Captain Christopher C. Scott and Jane McClain Toney Scott. Daisy’s dad was an Arkadelphia merchant and Daisy’s mom wrote a romantic novel called *Magnolias Abloom*. Daisy had 4 siblings; James, Clare, Elizabeth Strother Scott and Henrietta Daniey Scott.

Daisy attended Arkadelphia public schools for grade school and attended Ouachita Baptist College a few years later. She then attended Memphis Conference Female Institute in Jackson, TN and in 1891 she started training as a student nurse at St. Luke’s Hospital in St. Louis. Shortly after graduating from St. Luke’s Hospital, she married Dr. Norville W. Sharpe of St. Louis who was a cranial surgeon. Years later, Dr. Sharpe and Daisy got a divorce and in 1924 Daisy married David Haines Ball of Mount Vernon, New York. Mr. Ball was the President of P. Lorillard Tobacco Company in New York City; which was the world’s largest tobacco company.



Daisy then became a wife and a mom to her 2 sons. During World War I, Daisy responded to a national call for trained nurses. Daisy was assigned to conduct public health clinics in Belleville and O’Fallon, Illinois and Red Cross nursing duty in cooperation with Visiting Nurses Association. After World War I and her husband, Mr. Ball, passed away, Daisy returned to dancing.

From the time Daisy was a little girl, she always dreamed of being a dancer and to be a bareback rider in the circus and now had the chance to pursue dancing! Still living in New York City, Daisy enrolled in Arthur Murry Studio and

completed the basic courses, becoming a student of Fred Astaire. Tango was her first love, but she learned many dances during her time. Daisy recognized the health-giving properties of dancing as it gives joy of physical movement, excitement or musical tempos and limiting of crippling arthritis. Daisy got to be an exhibition dancer with a studio partner on St. Patrick’s Day in Miami which drew an accolade in the Miami Herald. Daisy wore the same emerald green velvet gown, gold slipper and gold wrist bangle that was personally presented to her by Fred Astaire. Daisy then was a dancing success on November 10, 1960 when she was a tango guest on the Junior League of Miami telecast over WTHS-TV. Thirteen years later, Daisy Scott Sharpe Ball passed away on February 25, 1973.

Daisy traveled all over, gathering books and art from various places. Daisy gave some pieces of art to the Arkadelphia Library and donated her whole library of beautifully bound books to the Library as well. Daisy represents genuine loyalty to Arkadelphia as she was born, raised and then gave back to her community all within this place she calls home.

